

Message Text

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60
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 H-03 NSC-10 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

USIA-12 PRS-01 OIC-04 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00 TRSE-00

FRB-02 STR-08 SS-15 CEA-02 CIEP-02 OMB-01 SIL-01

LAB-06 RSR-01 /203 W
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R 131703Z JUL 73
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 438
INFO USUN NEWYORK 9190

UNCLAS GENEVA 3595

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UN, ECOSOC
SUBJ: 55TH ECOSOC: ITEM 3, GENERAL DEBATE

1. SUMMARY: GENERAL DEBATE WAS COMPLETED AFTERNOON OF JULY 12. STATEMENTS WERE DELIVERED BY BOLIVIA, KENYA, MONGOLIA, ALGERIA, INDIA, EEC REP AND FINALLY REP OF INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. DECISION WAS TAKEN TO ORGANIZE BREIF "SECOND ROUND" OF GENERAL DEBATE IN DIALOGUE FORM AS PROPOSED BY AMB. SANTA CRUZ. THIS SECOND ROUND LIKELY TAKE PLACE LATE NEXT WEEK AND TO INVOLVE ONLY ONE DAY. END SUMMARY.

2. AMB. OLMEDO (BOLIVIA) FOLLOWED THE ESTABLISHED PATTERN OF STATEMENTS AT THIS SESSION, SPEAKING BRIEFLY IN GENERAL TERMS OF STATE OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY. LIKE MOST LDCS HE SPOKE TO MTN AND MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, ATTRIBUTING DISTORTIONS IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS TO LATTER. ALTHOUGH HE REFERRED TO PROBLEM OF COMMODITY STOCKPILING, IT WAS NOT WITH DIRECT REFERENCE TO USG BUT TO MORE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF UNCTAD'S COMMODITY AGREEMENT WORK. THE HIGHLIGHT WAS ON LOS, WITH OLMEDO INSISTING THAT LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES' UNCLASSIFIED

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INTEREST MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. BY FAR THE MOST INTERESTING SPEECH OF THE AFTERNOON WAS GIVEN BY PERM. REP. ODERO JOWI (KENYA) WHO COVERED

TRADE, MONETARY AND ECOSOC REVITALIZATION ISSUES IN A THIRTY-MINUTE INTERVENTION. HE SAID THAT MOST COMMODITY PRICES ARE UP AND THAT TRADING POSITION OF SOME LDCS THEREFORE IMPROVED. WARNING THAT MONETARY STABILITY PROBLEM COULD UNDERMINE THESE ADVANCES, ODERO JOWI DEDICATED 15 MINUTES TO MONETARY CRISIS. HE INTRODUCED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING THAT IT WAS "NEITHER HERE NOR THERE" WHETHER THE CAUSES OF THE CRISIS WERE REAL (SPECULATION ETC.) OR IMAGINED (PSYCHOLOGICAL, QUESTION OF CONFIDENCE). HE SAID THAT ACTION TO COPE WITH CRISIS MUST BE TAKEN NOW. BOWING TO THE DOLLAR AS THE CENTERPIECE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT IT WAS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT A SERIES OF STEPS TO STRENGTHEN THE DOLLAR SHOULD BE TAKEN WITHIN THE US AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND MONETARY INSTITUTIONS AT THIS TIME. THESE STEPS WERE, INTER ALIA, 1) ARRANGE TO "DRAIN OFF" UNWANTED DOLLARS, 2) RESUME CONVERTIBILITY OF THE DOLLAR, 3) RESUME FX OPEN MARKET OPERATIONS, 4) ADDRESS US INTERNAL PROBLEMS, SUCH AS HIGH COST, NON-COMPETITIVE INDUSTRIES, AND RESOLVE ANY DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AFFECTING CONFIDENCE IN DOLLAR (NO SPECIFIC "PROBLEMS" MENTIONED), AND 5) SPEED RETURN TO US BALANCE OF TRADE SURPLUS. HE SAID THAT IMF AND COMMITTEE OF 20 "WERE NOT UP TO THIS CRISIS" AND SUGGESTED THAT FOR LONGER RUN SOLUTIONS, AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MONETARY PROBLEMS SHOULD BE CALLED.

4. ON ECOSOC, ODERO JOWI ALLUDED TO PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ON NEED TO REVITALIZE THROUGH MEANS OF MORE SELECTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL PRUNING, BUT INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT FEEL THESE WERE CENTRAL PROBLEMS. HE ATTRIBUTED ECOSOC'S WEAKNESSES TO CONFLICTING AMBITIONS OF STATES WHICH IN BEING PLAYED OUT IN COUNCIL TENDED TO POLARIZE IT AND SAP ITS STRENGTH. HE SAID SAME THING HAD HAPPENED IN SC DUE TO EXCESSIVE USE OF VETO. IF COUNCIL IS HELD IN CONTEMPT, IT IS BECAUSE IT DOES NOT TAKE UP CRUCIAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS MONETARY CRISIS, AND WIDENING GAPS BETWEEN RICH AND POOR IN TIMELY FASHION.

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5. ODERO JOWI AGREED WITH AMB. SCALI THAT COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY "CAN BE A USEFUL TOOL IN THE REFORM AND RATIONALIZATION OF ECOSOC", BUT SAID THAT CES MUST BE DEFINED AND REFINED SO AS TO ADVANCE TWO OF THE COUNCIL'S ROLES, I.E. DEALING WITH TEMPORAL AND CRISIS SITUATIONS AND OVERSEEING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IDS. SPEAKING TO FRAZAO'S APPEAL FOR CONSENSUS DECISION MAKING, ODERO JOWI SAID THAT THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE. TO SUPPORT HIS POSITION, HE SAID THE UN CHARTER PROVIDED FOR DECISION BY MAJORITY VOTE, AVOWED THAT CONSENSUS WOULD POLARIZE THE COUNCIL BY WEAKENING COMMITMENT OF ITS MEMBERS AND OPENING POSSIBILITY OF MINORITY VETO.

6. HE CASTIGATED SOME WHO CRITICIZED THE COUNCIL FOR THE

WRONG REASONS, SAYING THAT SOME STATEMENTS OF DISENCHANTMENT WERE SELF-SERVING. SPEAKING FOR AFRICANS, ODERO JOWI SAID THAT AFRICAN DISENCHANTMENT FLOWED FROM COUNCIL'S LACK OF ACHIEVEMENT. IN WIDER CONTEXT, HE SAID AFRICANS WERE "AGGRIEVED BY UN INEFFECTIVENESS" IN MATTERS OF APARTHEID, COLONIALISM AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

7. ODERO JOWI'S STATEMENT ENDED WITH KIND WORDS FOR POLICY STATEMENTS OF REPS OF SWEDEN, DENMARK, NORWAY AND SPECIAL PRAISE FOR MINISTER PRONK'S STATEMENT. HE WISHED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD EMULATE NETHERLANDS' POSITION.

8. THE MONGOLIAN REP. DWELLED ON DOMESTIC ECONOMIC SITUATION. HE SUPPORTED ODERO JOWI'S POSITION REGARDING CONSENSUS IN THE COUNCIL AND THE POLISH SUGGESTION THAT THE COUNCIL'S AGENDA BE DRASTICALLY PARED. THE ALGERIAN STATEMENT WAS HIGHLY NEGATIVE, CLICHE LADEN ACCOUNT OF STATE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY. THE EEC REP REVIEWED OLD MATERIAL REGARDING THE COMMUNITIES RELATIONSHIPS WITH LDCS.

9. INDIAN REP, LAST OF THE DELEGATION INTERVENTIONS, REVIEWED HIS COUNTRY'S POSITION ON R/A, ECOSOC REFORM AND REVITALIZATION, MTN, SDR LINK AND CES. HIS GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT 28TH GA WILL BE IN POSITION TO DEAL WITH AMENDMENT OF ART. 61 ON ECOSOC ENLARGEMENT. HE RESTATED THE INDIAN POSITION THAT COUNCIL REVITALIZATION SHOULD NOT INVOLVE "TINKERING WITH INSTITUTIONAL MACHINE" BUT RATHER ENCOMPASS UNCLASSIFIED

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MEASURES DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE COUNCIL'S COORDINATION FUNCTIONS IN INTER-AGENCY AND INTER-SECTORAL AREAS. ON THE IDS, HE SAID COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER HOW TO IMPLEMENT IT, NOT WASTE TIME REFINING INDICATORS. HE WARNED THAT LDCS HAD SO FAR RECEIVED ONLY VAGUE ASSURANCES THAT THEIR INTERESTS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN MTN AND ASKED FOR MORE SPECIFIC GUARANTEE. HE FAVORED THE IDEA OF CONSENSUS IN COUNCIL, BUT WARNED THAT IT MUST NOT RESULT IN "LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR" DECISION-MAKING.

10. THE GENERAL DEBATE ENDED WITH A BRIEF INTERVENTION BY THE REP OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

11. FRAZAO THEN ADJOURNED THE GENERAL DEBATE, BUT SAID THAT A "SESSION OR TWO" WOULD BE SET UP TO DEBATE POINTS RAISED IN THE COURSE OF THE GENERAL DEBATE. THE TIMING OF THESE SESSIONS WILL BE ARRANGED IN CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.BASSIN

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